elephantiasis, an enquiry into which would yield very useful and scientific data. Again, it was the opinion of competent authorities that tuberculosis was very common in the town. If an endeavour was made to go into the conditions and surroundings under which diseases like the tuberculosis and elephantiasis throve, possibly remedial measures could be found out to stop their spread and even to extirpate them altogether. The forests had imbedded in them quite a wealth of economic products and if sufficient scientific attention was given to their development, the country would be the better and richer. The Agricultural Department too could be made to turn out better and more useful results. There was, no doubt, a laboratory attached to the office of the Director. But the work done was not commensurate with the demand or the maximum benefit expected to accrue from it, because the necessary conveniences were not given to the department for research work on any desirable scale. The country was undoubtedly grateful to Government for the liberal provision made in the current year's budget, but what was important was that the amount should be fully utilised for the purposes intended. The Member read an extract from an article in the *Modern Review* describing the nature of the scientific work in research carried on in America and urged similar steps being taken in Travancore also. In regard to the Geological Department also, the information of the Member was that a good deal more could be done, if the State Geologist had been placed in a better position in respect of his laboratory and other equipments. If, with a view to carry on research work of the kind indicated above, a Central Laboratory were instituted, the economic salvation of the country could be assured. Perhaps a sum ranging between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 60,000 would be enough to start a Laboratory, if it could be attached to the College Laboratory.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

140. Extension of the Railway to South Travancore.

Mr. Ramasuppu Sivathanu Chettiar (Member, Trading Classes, Kottar) prayed for the extension of the railway to Aramboli frontier and submitted that, as the Trivandrum-Quilon line was paying, the line proposed by him would be equally profitable. It was highly necessary in view to develop trade and agriculture.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

141. Suggestions for increasing the benefits derived from the railway extension to Trivandrum.

Mr. S. Ganapathi Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) explained the difficulties and hardships the people were put to on account of the present railway station being situated at Chakay and said that the bandy hire paid by passengers to get to the station from different parts of the town was itself unbearable. He requested that the line might be extended as far as Karamanai or Chalai, so as to bring the heart of the town under the benefits of the railway. He also complained of the difficulties in securing tickets from the Trivandrum station.

Dewan's reply.—The Government are in communication with the Railway authorities on the subject of affording increased facilities to passengers. The other points are noted.

142. Extension of the Trivandrum—Quilon Railway to Alwaye.

Mr. K. K. Thomas B. A. & B. L. (Member, Nominated) said that the subject of his representation affected all classes of His Highness' subjects. When a few years ago the matter was mooted, it was considered premature and it was thought desirable to await the working of the Trivandrum-Quilon line which was then in course of construction. Now that that line had become a successful one, the time had come for further consideration of the subject. It was not necessary to enumerate the advantages of railway communications in Travancore. The physical configuration of the country, its progress and enlightenment, the growth of civic activities such as newspapers, printing houses, the growth of popular institutions, increase of trade and commerce and development of agriculture were among other factors contributory to the well ordered progress of the State. The contact of the people with Cochin and other parts of British India on the west coast was becoming closer on account of the

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